# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
# LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:80
ANSWERED ON:07.02.2017
Monitoring of PDS
Rathwa Shri Ramsinh Patalyabhai

**Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:**

(a) whether the Government has appointed area officers for monitoring of Public Distribution System (PDS) in the country;
(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the nature of duty performed by such officers;
(c) whether the Government has carried out any assessment of the area officer scheme during the last two years; and
(d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof, State-wise?

## Answer

MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN)
(a)to (d): A statement is laid on the table of the House
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STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (d) OF THE STARRED QUESTION NO. *80 DUE FOR ANSWER ON 07.02.2017 IN THE LOK SABHA
(a) to (d): Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is implemented under joint responsibility of Central Government and State/UT Governments. Apart from TPDS, some Central/centrally sponsored schemes of the Ministry are also implemented by State/UT Governments.
For better coordination between Central Government and State/UT Governments for implementing TPDS and other schemes, an arrangement of field visits by officers of the Department was introduced in 2000. These officers were termed as Area Officers for field visits. The Area Officers made field visits in the assigned States/UTs to assess the functioning of TPDS and progress of the schemes. The feedback received from the Area Officers on TPDS and other schemes used to be shared with concerned State and UT Governments for improving the functioning of TPDS operations & other schemes.
This arrangement has since been suspended w.e.f. November, 2012. The decision to suspend the scheme was further reviewed after six months and it was decided that the scheme will remain suspended till it is decided to implement it. No further review to continue the said scheme has thereafter been undertaken.
The NFSA 2013 provides for a two-tier grievance re-dressal mechanism at the state and district levels respectively.
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